

New South America--Sister Continent Which Will Be Opened Up by Panama Canal

A Bird's-Eye View of the Southern Half of Our Hemisphere. The Immensity of the Countries and Their Magnificent Distances—Big Things in South America—Travels in the Highlands of the Andes and on the Deserts and the Pampas—How to Fill Uncle Sam's Bread Basket—The Sheep of the Strait of Magellan, and the Wild Cattle on the Highlands of Bolivia—Letters About the Mines of the Andes and the Lost Treasures of the Incas—Something About the South American Indian—The New Cities Which Are Growing Faster Than Any in the United States—Some Mighty Natural Wonders—A Tour of 25,000 Miles for Our Newspaper Readers.

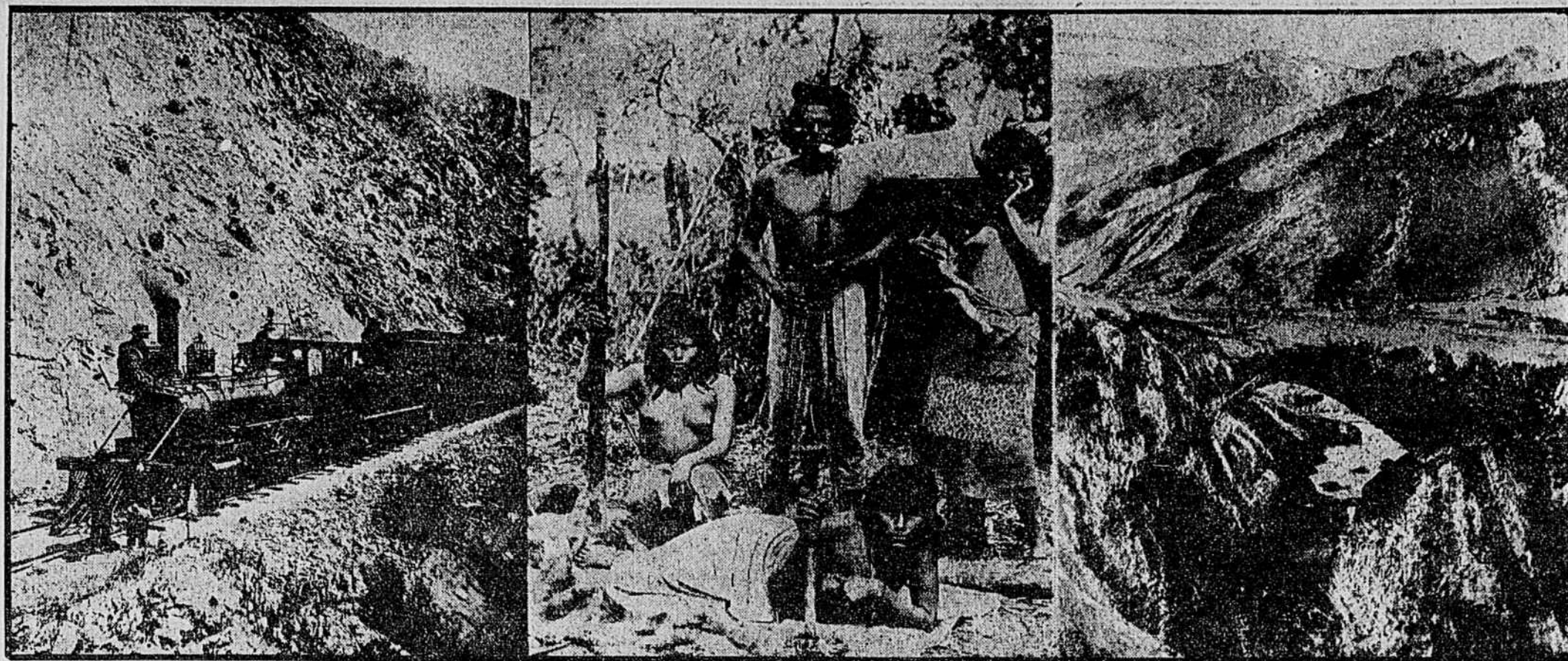
BY FRANK G. CARPENTER.

I HAVE stopped off at Kingston, on the island of Jamaica, on my way to South America. I am now in the center of the Caribbean Sea. Two days later I shall be at Panama, and within a month I shall be amid the volcanoes and snows on the top of the Andes. I am just starting out on a tour of 25,000 miles through our great sister continent, to write a series of letters for this paper. I expect to visit the principal countries of South America, going down the west coast from Panama to Patagonia, traveling for months in the Andes, investigating the possibilities of the South American desert, and writing of all the countries which face the Pacific. Later in the year I shall go around through the Strait of Magellan, or over the mountains to the great republics which lie on their eastern slopes, traversing the mighty plains and traveling up and down the principal rivers.

During this journey I shall describe the countries as they are to-day, and the mighty changes now going on in their civilization and industrial development. I expect to travel over all the new railroads, to describe the new factories and mills, to go down into the mines, and to show the wonderful increase and the enormous possibilities of South American trade.

The Continent of the Future.
The new South America! The words make my blood tingle when I think of its future. South America is the great undeveloped world of the nineteenth century. It is the treasure vault of the universe and the mighty coming bread basket of the human race. Argentina alone could supply enough wheat to feed all mankind. The plateau of Bolivia and Brazil added to Uruguay and the Argentine may make the chief sources of meats and the minerals of the Andes—silver, gold, copper and tin—are practically inexhaustible. As to cultivable land, South America far surpasses our own great continent, which lies at the north. North America has the more square miles, but a vast part of it is all snow and ice. South America is good all the way through, from Caracas, Venezuela, to Punta Arenas, on the Strait of Magellan. The distance is 4,600 miles, or as far as from San Francisco to Japan. The country is flat from east to west. At its greatest breadth it is 300 miles wide, and the United States, from Boston to San Francisco, and the most of it consists of mighty plains so fertile that they yield the valleys of the Nile or the Ganges in their potential possibilities.

Some Big Things in South America.
We are accustomed to boast that we have the greatest country on earth. North America seems about the only big thing on our hemisphere, and the United States, in our opinion, stands out as prominently there as the ball on one's nose. We have no conception of the immensity of the vast continent which lies at the south, nor of the mighty countries which are there in the distance. The mass on the street thinks of only as a far-off locality, of a remote extent, from where come the coffee, the rubber and the motor car. Brazil is so big that it could cover the whole of the United States proper as with a blanket and have great lands left over equal to ten States the size of Maine to tuck in around the edges. Little Ecuador is twice as big as Illinois. Peru is ten times the size of Missouri, and the low sloping of Chile, if laid out in one block, would more than equal seven States as big as Ohio, Virginia or Kentucky. Argentina has



The highest railroad of the world. It goes to the top of the Andes, and was built by an American.

Queer Indians from Tierra del Fuego.

I shall be traveling for months in the tops of the Andes. This shows the famous bridge of the Incas.

one-third as much land as the United States, and nearly every foot of it will raise grass, grain or meat. Bolivia is ten times as big as the whole of New England, and Colombia is bigger than France or the Spanish peninsula.

The most of these countries are white men's countries. Even those which lie in the tropics have vast tracts of land so high above the sea that their climate is delightful all the year round. The whole of central and eastern Brazil is one vast plateau, and the southern part of that country is noted for cattle and grain. It is so popular with the Germans that they have settled there by the hundreds of thousands. The country has become known as West Deutschland, and it has German cities and towns, while regular steamers from Germany call at the ports.

You might think that the white man could not live as far down as the Strait of Magellan. That strait is a thousand miles farther south than Cape Town, in Africa. It is away down on the globe, below Australia and New Zealand, and nevertheless its climate is so mild that cattle and sheep can feed out of doors there all the year round. The great island of Terra del Fuego is now devoted to sheep, and the whole country about is a summer resort compared with the lands of central Alaska. As to that part of South America, I speak from personal experience. I have been at the Strait of Magellan in the heart of mid-winter, and have tramped around in the mud, the weather being so warm that the white man could not live as far down as the Strait of Magellan. I do not mean to say that this is so all the time, but the winters are mild.

Filling Uncle Sam's Bread Basket.

Speaking of the sheep at the strait brings me to the investigations I hope to make as to whether South America cannot cut down the cost of our large mutton and our tenderloin roasts. There is no doubt that frozen meats can be shipped from there to our country and be as good as fresh as though they came from the farm. I have seen the loading ships with frozen mutton in New Zealand for London. The distance between the two countries is far greater than that between New York and the South American ports. Nevertheless, the meat sells readily in the markets of Europe, and the same is true of the beef which goes to London from the Argentine pampas. There is no reason why the vast sheep and cattle ranches of southern South America should not aid in the supply of our American markets, and still less reason why we should not get cattle from the selvas of Venezuela and Colombia. I am told that Bolivia has so many wild cattle that beavers sell in parts of the plateau for \$2 and \$3 apiece, and that some of the cattle are killed for their hides and the meat thrown away. Paraguay has fine pasture lands, which are now sold by the square league, and some of which are being exploited by American capital, and the same is true of interior Brazil.

The bread possibilities of South America are almost equal to those of the meats. Argentina has potential wheat lands as great as those of the United States and Canada combined, and it now exports thousands of tons of grain every year to the countries of



South American cowboys on a great estancia. South America may be the chief source of our meat supply of the future.

Europe. Uruguay is shipping grain, southern Brazil raises wheat, and Chile has vast estancias devoted to the cereals. There is probably a great future for the highlands of the Andes as to the harder varieties of such products, and our Agricultural Department has sent down experts to investigate what can be done. They are already built a railroad in Ecuador to supply the nitrogen for our American farms. Those deserts have already yielded several hundred million dollars' worth of that fertilizer, and they are now turning out nitrate of soda by the billions of pounds. As it is now, we are taking one-fifth of

the whole product, and there is scarcely a live orchardist or market gardener in our country who does not nourish his crops with plant food from Chile. I want to go out into the desert and visit the mines, and tell you how the nitrates look in the ground. As to the guano islands, they are scattered along the Pacific coast some distance above where the nitrate desert begins. They are frequented by millions of birds, and the droppings from these have already produced more than 12,000,000 tons of ma-

Another part of my mission is to describe how farming is done in the various countries, and to report upon new grains and fruits which may possibly be used in our country. The Andes Mountains are the home of the potato, and upon the plateau of Bolivia there are many varieties which are unknown in North America. Some of these date back to prehistoric days. The common people, ruled by the Incas, were raising "spuds" long before Ireland was thought of, and every tuber of the potato variety we eat has a genealogical tree whose roots are buried in the heights of the Andes.

Further down the mountain the people have a vegetable known as the yuca. This is a tuber with branches like an underground tree, and they may be varieties equal to that which

Luther Burbank found when a boy, and from that discovery continued his investigations to fame and fortune.

I want to investigate the guano islands off the coast of Peru, and also go into the nitrate fields of the great South American desert, which now so largely supply the nitrogen for our American farms. Those deserts have already yielded several hundred million dollars' worth of that fertilizer, and they are now turning out nitrate of soda by the billions of pounds. As it is now, we are taking one-fifth of

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BAPTISTS PROUD OF THEIR NEW CHURCH



Onancock, Va., January 3.—The new Baptist church at Accomac, which has just been opened for worship, was built at a cost of \$15,000. It is of Gothic architecture, after the old English style of the sixteenth century. The building, besides the main auditorium, contains a baptistry and robing room. It is heated by steam and lighted by electricity. The Sunday school room is situated in a wing, and has three large classrooms entering into it. The windows in the church are nearly all memorial, including one to the late Judge B. T. Gunter, Sr. A marble tablet adorns the walls of the church, showing the affection of the members for their pastor and his wife, Dr. and Mrs. A. B. Dunaway. The inscription reads:

"In recognition of the valuable services of Rev. A. B. Dunaway and Mrs. E. J. Dunaway in and about the erection of this building, October, 1913."

The church which was replaced by this handsome structure was built in 1870, under the supervision of Louis D. Drummond, from the proceeds of an invested fund given by Miss Anne C. Taylor. The first pastor was Rev. Henry Petty and the dedication sermon was preached by Rev. J. L. Burrows.

NEW CHURCH AT ACCOMAC.



DR. A. B. DUNAWAY.

places. I am told that there are many traditions as to where these lost treasures lie. I shall report upon these through my Indian interpreter, and I hope to give some idea of the possible localities.

The Mines of the Andes.

I shall also write about the actual live treasure vaults of the highlands. I shall go through the mining regions and show something of the big things now going on. The Andes are peppered with silver and gold from the isthmus to the strait, and of late several of the republics have been exporting vast quantities of copper and tin. A large percentage of all the tin now used in the world comes from Bolivia, and the copper mines there are just at their beginning. Many of the old silver mines of the Andes are now yielding copper. This is so of Cerro de Pasco, which is now being operated by American capital, and also of the silver mountains at Potosi in Bolivia. As to gold, Bolivia is one of the treasure vaults of the universe. It has already yielded over a billion dollars' worth of gold, and it is said to have tin enough to supply the world. In some parts of the Andes there are also precious stones. Columbia gives us our most beautiful emeralds, and Brazil was the chief source of our diamond

supply before the great mines of South Africa came to be known.

The Indians of South America.
Another field of investigation will be the Indians of South America. We are prone to look upon our own land as the chief home of a race men. The truth is, the United States was never thickly populated before the white man came, and its Indians never surpassed in number, it is said, more than 600,000. Some authorities put the population at 250,000. South America has always had millions of Indians, and they are of as many different kinds as we have peoples in America. There were the Incas, who were highly civilized, and who were the rulers of many other tribes, some of whom served as hewers of wood and drawers of water. In the north lives the Chibcha, who had an organized government and considerable civilization. They were skilled weavers, dyers and potters, and they had paved highways and suspension bridges. They lived in houses and erected temples, and were also expert at tilling the soil.

In Southern Chile were the Araucanians, a tribe so brave, it is said, that it has never been conquered, and in Northern Peru or Ecuador were the Chichas, another warlike tribe which had a high civilization. To-day the descendants of these Indians are mostly in servitude. I shall see some of them in the plateau of Bolivia, in the Amazon, and who use llamas as their beasts of burden and who raise the alpacas, from which we get the fine wool of that name. In Paraguay I shall see the Guarani, who have mixed with the whites and become largely civilized and who now own farms and ranches, and in Patagonia I may come into contact with the Tehuelches, the tallest of the red men, many of whom are over six feet and of highly proportioned.

In addition to these there are savage tribes in the Paraguay and Amazon basins, many of whom go almost naked and some of whom are head hunters. I have had chance to buy their heads cured by these Indians several times before on my travels, and I am told that one can get a human head, shrunk to the size of a fist in some parts of interior Ecuador for \$100.

Big Cities of South America.

When I traveled over South America fifteen years ago the biggest town on the continent was not larger than the Baltimore of to-day. Since then many of the cities have been increasing more rapidly than any United States municipality, and now there are two cities of over a million. The largest Latin city of the world is Buenos Aires, the capital of Argentina, and there are a few places in the world which compare with it in richness and beauty. At the last census it was larger than Philadelphia, and it is now estimated to contain more than 1,500,000. At its present rate of growth it will soon surpass Chicago, and it promises to be one of the most beautiful cities of this hemisphere. Within the past few years tens of millions of dollars have been spent upon city improvements. The congested business sections have been cut through to make wide avenues, and magnificent public buildings have been erected. The city has a new newspaper building, which is said to have cost \$5,000,000, and it has fine residences and palaces galore.

Rio de Janeiro has now more than 1,000,000 population, and it has within a very few years spent more than \$10,000,000 on municipal improvements. It has taken advantage of our health work at Panama, and has wiped out every vestige of yellow fever, so that it is now as safe for the traveler as any town of the world.

Santiago de Chile is growing, and its famous public park, situated on a little table mountain in the heart of the city, is one of the wonders of landscape gardening. About 100,000 people live there, and there are other cities which can give points to us if modern civic improvements and in municipal government.

Great Natural Wonders.

It would take more than a letter to even mention the natural wonders of the South American continent. There is no mountain system except the Himalayas which compares in grandeur with the mighty Andes, and there is no river which is equal in volume and in its power to the Amazon. South America has the highest lakes in the world. Lake Titicaca, which lies between Peru and Bolivia, that lake is two miles across, and it is as big as Lake Erie. It has snow-capped mountains about it, and its islands are filled with the ruins of unknown civilization. The falls of the Parana in Eastern Brazil are said to surpass the Niagara in their wonderful features, and the branches of the Amazon have mighty cascades almost unknown.

The Gateway to South America.

I am sailing to-morrow for the Isthmus of Panama to see the canal as it looks at its completion. I saw it first more than seventeen years ago. Then the French were in charge, and they had 3,000 negroes at work. I visited it again when Uncle Sam began to organize his force under Engineer Wallace, and I have been on the ground from time to time while the greatest army of laborers the world has ever known, under Colonel Goethals, has been plowing down the mountains and damming the streams. The great ditch has now separated the continents, but at the same time it has tied their peoples and the countries more closely together, and it will for the future be the great gateway from one to the other. My next letter will describe it as it looks to-day, and as it will look when the ships go through.

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V. P. I.

[Special to The Times-Dispatch.]

Blacksburg, Va., January 3.—The second term of the session 1913-14 at the Virginia Polytechnic Institute begins with chapel exercises and regular class duties on Monday morning, January 5, when every student must report for duty. Members of the faculty have been returning from their vacations during the last three days, and all will be ready to meet the classes on Monday morning.

President Eggleston, Dr. S. W. Fletcher and several other members of faculty of the college of agriculture are on the program for addresses at the sixth annual meeting of the Virginia Corn Growers Association in Lynchburg, January 6-7. Professor Lyman Carrier, of the department of agronomy, Virginia Polytechnic Institute, is secretary of the association, and has prepared a very interesting and varied schedule of lectures and events for the meeting in Lynchburg next week.

On Thursday, January 8, the sixty or more demonstrators for a three weeks' course of instruction in all branches of practical agriculture, and to secure every advantage of this special course, all departments of the college will be at their disposal. On February 2 the "Winter Course in Agriculture" begins, lasting through the month. This course is open to every farmer in Virginia, and full information as to course of study, lectures and demonstrations while here may be had of the president of the college or dean of the college of agriculture.

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